

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 4-8 remain in the referenced application. Claims 1, 2, 4, and 8 have been amended, claims 3 and 9 have been canceled, and claim 10 has been added.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) by Whigham et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,129,434 – hereinafter referred to as Whigham) in view of McCann et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,647,115 – hereinafter referred to as McCann). Responsive to the above-recited rejection, Applicant has canceled claim 3 and incorporated limitations contained therein into claim 1. In particular claim 1 as amended recites a sonic generator assembly for providing audible information therefrom and a sensor linked with the sonic generator assembly and with a switch, wherein the sensor activates the sonic generator assembly responsive to the switch activating a valve. Claim 2 has been amended to recite that the sensor deactivates the sonic generator assembly responsive to the switch deactivating the valve. Applicant accordingly respectfully submits claims 1 and 2 as amended are patentable over Whigham in view of McCann because the Whigham/McCann combination does not disclose, teach, or suggest a sensor that activates and deactivates a sonic generator assembly responsive to a switch activating and deactivating a valve.

Whigham discloses a beverage dispensing valve without any audio capability. McCann discloses a liquid dispensing device with an audible alarm. The McCann liquid dispensing device includes a pump 11, a pouring spout 12, a vibrator 13, and an operator button 14 that causes a hammer 15 to strike the vibrator 13 during pouring of liquid from a bottle 10. In use, the McCann liquid dispensing device attaches to the bottle 10, which is then inverted to initiate a pour. After inverting the bottle 10, a user presses the operator button 14 thereby driving the pump 11 which delivers liquid from the bottle 10 via the pouring spout 12. The pressing of the operator button 14 also causes the hammer 15 to strike the vibrator 13 which emits an audible tone in response thereto. The McCann liquid dispensing device is therefore operated manually through the depression of the operator button 14. The McCann liquid dispensing device accordingly does not include a sensor that activates and deactivates a sonic generator assembly responsive to a switch activating and deactivating a valve. As such, the Whigham/McCann

combination fails to render claims 1 and 2 as amended obvious.

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) by Whigham et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,129,434 – hereinafter referred to as Whigham) in view of McCann et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,647,115 – hereinafter referred to as McCann) further in view of Sachetti (U.S. Patent No. 5,908,142). Claim 9 has been indicated as allowable. Applicant accordingly has canceled claim 9 and incorporated the limitation contained therein into claim 8. Applicant therefore respectfully submits claim 8 is now patentable.

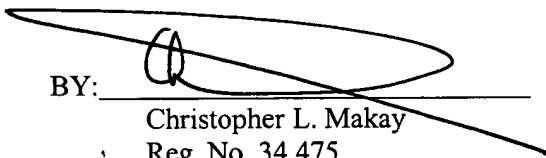
Claim 10 has been added to recite the audio control logic unit as ceasing to generate an acoustic signal responsive to a deactivation signal received from the sensor.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected claims and consideration of the new claim. Applicant further earnestly solicits early allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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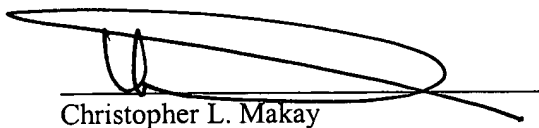
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